GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3923
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Connectivity of Rural Villages by Roadways
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken any scheme to promote connectivity of villages by roadways;

(b) if so, the objectives and salient features of the scheme;

(c) the challenges faced by the Government in the implementation of the scheme;

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to overcome the difficulties in the implementation of the scheme;

(e) whether there is any improvement in the related indices after implementation of the scheme and if so, the details of the distribution of the related indices, State/UT-wise; and

(f) whether the Government proposes any other action plan or policy for promoting connectivity of villages by roadways and if so, the details thereof, if any?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a) to (d): 'Rural Roads' is a State Subject and the Government of India has launched Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) on 25th December, 2000, as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, with the objective to provide a single all-weather road with necessary culverts and cross-drainage structures to the eligible unconnected habitations, existing in the Core Network, in rural areas of country. The programme envisages connecting all eligible unconnected habitations with a population of 500 persons and above (as per 2001 Census) in plain areas and 250 persons and above (as per 2001 Census) in Special Category States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim,Tripura Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand), Tribal (Schedule-V) areas, the Desert Areas (as identified in Desert Development Programme) and in Selected Tribal and Backward Districts (as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs/Planning Commission). The PMGSY permits upgradation (to prescribed standards) of existing rural roads in districts where all the eligible habitations of the designated population size have been provided all weather road connectivity. For most intensive LWE blocks as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the unconnected habitations with population 100 and above (as per 2001 Census) are also eligible for connectivity under PMGSY. The Government of India has also launched PMGSY-II which envisages consolidation of the existing Rural Road Network to improve its overall efficiency as a provider of transportation services for the people, goods and services. It aims to cover upgradation of existing selected rural roads based on their economic potential and their role in facilitating the growth of rural market centers and rural hubs.

The roadways/transportation facilities on PMGSY and other rural roads are required to be provided by the respective State Governments, hence no such data base is maintained at the Central level. However, keeping in view the transportation needs in the remote rural areas, the Ministry of Rural Development has conceived a scheme called "Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)". The main objectives of AGEY are (i) to provide an alternative source of livelihood to members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) by facilitating them to operate public transport services in backward rural areas and (ii) to provide safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services (e-rickshaws, 3 and 4 wheeler motorised transport vehicles) to connect remote villages with key services and amenities (including access to markets, education and health) for the overall economic development of the area. The sub-scheme is planned to be implemented in 250 blocks in the country on a pilot basis for a period of 3 years from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

(e): Impact assessment studies of PMGSY has been conducted by several organizations like 'National Baseline Study Report for PMGSY' by Lea Associates South Asia Pvt Ltd in 2010, Poverty & Social Impact Assessment of PMGSY by World Bank in 2014, Impact of Improved Rural Road Maintenance System under PMGSY by International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2015, Study on Rural Roads and morbidity in upland Odisha by University of Heidelberg in 2015 and Impact Assessment Study of PMGSY including Gender in Rajasthan by Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS), Pilani in 2015. All the above studies concluded positive impact on the socio-economic indices due to construction of rural roads.

(f) For accelerated execution of PMGSY in the States, the Ministry of Rural Development in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and the State Governments, has formulated an Action Plan to advance the completion target of the programme from 2022 to 2019 with revised fund sharing pattern. The fund sharing pattern of PMGSY has been revised to the ratio of 60:40 between the centre and the States for all States except for 8 North Eastern and 3 Himalayan States (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand)

for which it is be 90:10. Further, for execution of projects in a time bond manner, monthly and yearly completion targets have been fixed and are monitored regularly by the Ministry of Rural Development. State Governments are also advised through Regional Review Meetings and Empowered Committee Meetings to take suitable necessary action to expedite timely completion of works under PMGSY.

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